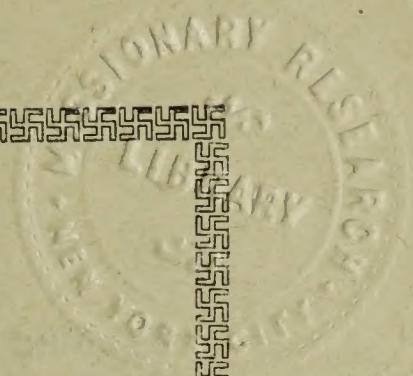


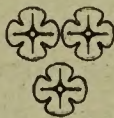
10  
Pam.  
Misc.

1554

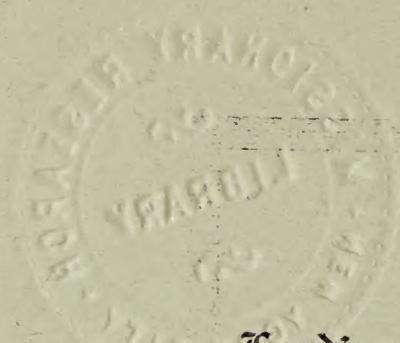


Leading Principles  
of the  
Lutheran Free Church

---







## Leading Principles of the Lutheran Free Church

1. The congregation is, according to the Word of God, the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth.

2. The congregation shall consist of believers who, by using the means of grace and the spiritual gifts as directed in the Word of God, seek their own and their fellowmen's salvation and eternal blessing.

3. The congregation needs, according to the New Testament, an external organization with register of its members, election of officers, stated times and places for its meetings etc.

4. As not all members belonging to the external organization of the congregation always are believers, and as such persons often falsely seek consolation in the external relation with the congregation, it is the sacred task of the congregation to purify itself by a quickening preaching of the Word of God, by earnest exhortation and admonition, and by exclusion of manifest and perverse sinners.

5. The congregation governs its own affairs under the authority of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government as a higher tribunal.

6. The free congregation esteems and cherishes all the spiritual gifts which the Lord gives it for its spiritual upbuilding, and endeavors to quicken such gifts of grace and further the use of them.



7. The free congregation gladly accepts the mutual help which congregations can give each other in the labor for promoting the kingdom of God.

8. Such mutual help consists partly therein, that the spiritual forces of one congregation render aid to the other by free conferences, mutual visits, laymen's activities etc.;—partly therein, that the congregations, voluntarily and in accord with the prompting of the Spirit of God, co-operate in solving such problems as are beyond the ability of the individual congregation.

9. Among such objects can be specifically mentioned: the Theological Seminary, the distribution of Bibles and of other books and papers, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Missions among the Jews, Deaconess Institutes, Orphanages and other works of charity.

10. Free congregations have no right to demand that other congregations shall subject themselves to their opinion, will, judgment or decision; for which reason every dominion of a majority of congregations over a minority is to be rejected.

11. The joint-agencies, which might be found to be desirable for the co-operation of congregations—such as greater or lesser meetings, committees, officers etc.,—can not, in a Lutheran free church, impose on the individual congregation any duty, obligation, restriction or burden, but is only entitled to present motions and requests to congregations and individuals.

12. Every free congregation, as every individual believer, is actuated by the Spirit of God, and invested with the right of love, to do good and to work for the salvation of souls and the awakening of spiritual life, as far as its ability and strength reaches; in such a free, spiritual activity, the congregation is not circumscribed by parochial limits or synodical boundaries.



